

What is claimed is:

1           1.     A composition for alleviating acne scarring, comprising a compatible  
2 combination of: a non-retinoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix-degrading enzyme; and  
3 an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of comedolytics,  
4 antibacterials, anti-inflammatories, retinoids, glucocorticoids, and compatible  
5 mixtures thereof.

1           2.     The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an inhibitor is  
2 selected from the group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF-κB inhibitors, elastase  
3 inhibitors, adhesion antagonists, and mixtures thereof.

1           3.     The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is applied topically  
2 and is provided in combination with a dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1           4.     The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is administered  
2 systemically.

1           5.     The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid.

1           6.     The composition of claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is an  
2 antibacterial.

1           7.     The composition of claim 6, wherein the active ingredient is benzoyl  
2 peroxide.

1           8.     The composition of claim 1, comprising a combination of an MMP  
2 inhibitor and a neutrophil elastase inhibitor.

1           9.     The composition of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an antioxidant.

1 10. A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of: orally  
2 administering an active ingredient for the treatment of acne and topically  
3 administering a non-retinoid, non-glucocorticoid inhibitor of a dermal matrix  
4 degrading enzyme to acne-affected skin.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid or a  
2 tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is selected from the  
2 group consisting of AP-1 inhibitors, NF-κB inhibitors, elastase inhibitors, selectin  
3 inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the inhibitor of a dermal matrix  
2 degrading enzyme is an MMP inhibitor.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor an antioxidant.

1 15. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is applied regularly from  
2 once every two days to twice daily.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the inhibitor is applied daily.

1 17. The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor comprises a combination  
2 of an MMP inhibitor and an elastase inhibitor.

1 18. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a direct MMP inhibitor.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an indirect MMP  
2 inhibitor.

1           20. A combined therapy for alleviating acne scarring, comprising a  
2 compatible combination of: a non-retinoid inhibitor or antagonist of an receptor  
3 sensitive to LPS-like material; and an active ingredient selected from the group  
4 consisting of comedolytics, antibacterials, anti-inflammatories, retinoids,  
5 glucocorticoids, non-retinoid MMP inhibitors, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1           21. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the composition is applied  
2 topically and is provided in combination with a dermatologically-acceptable carrier.

1           22. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at least one of the active  
2 ingredient and the inhibitor is administered topically.

1           23. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein at least one of the active  
2 ingredient and the inhibitor is administered orally.

1           24. The combined therapy of claim 20, where the combination is provided  
2 as a single, topically applied composition.

1           25. The combined therapy of claim 20, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist  
2 inhibits or antagonizes a TLR.

1           26. A method for treating acne, comprising the steps of: administering an  
2 active ingredient for the treatment of acne and administering a non-retinoid, non-  
3 glucocorticoid inhibitor or antagonist of a receptor sensitive to LPS-like compounds  
4 induced or produced by *P. acnes*.

1           27. The method of claim 26, wherein the active ingredient is a retinoid or a  
2 tetracycline or derivative thereof.

1           28. The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist is  
2 administered topically and applied regularly from once every two days to twice daily.

1           29.    The method of claim 25, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist is  
2 administered daily and the active ingredient is administered topically.

1           30.    The method of claim 26, wherein the inhibitor or antagonist reduces the  
2 induction or production or signalling by NF- $\kappa$ B.

1           31.    A method for treating acne, comprising administering a non-retinoid  
2 inhibitor of NF- $\kappa$ B to a patient in need thereof.

1           32.    The method of claim 31, wherein the inhibitor affects the production of  
2 NF- $\kappa$ B from TLRs.

1           33.    A method for treating acne, comprising administering an inhibitor that  
2 prevents CD-14 from activating toll-like receptors.

1           34.    The method of claim 33, wherein the CD-14 inhibitor is administered  
2 topically.